

BUILD YOUR SKILLS

PAINTING BASICS

- Whatever paint job you're tackling, you will need to select the right type of paint, decide which painting tools to use, prepare the surface and then apply the paint.
- If you're redecorating walls in the same shade, you will generally only need to apply one new coat of paint. However, when painting a light shade over a bold colour, two or even three coats may be necessary. If the wall is stained, never paint over without sealing the area first, or it will bleed through – we recommend Wickes Interior Stain Cover.
- When painting new wood or metal surfaces, you need to build up a paint system. This generally consists of a primer to ensure that the paint system bonds well with the surface, an undercoat to provide a smooth and opaque covering layer, and then the decorative top coat.
- If you're painting bare walls and ceilings with water-based emulsion paint, there is generally no need to prime the surface, although you may want to thin the first coat with water.



APPLYING PAINT

Using a paint brush

- Brushes are most painters' first choice for painting wood and metal, and many people prefer them to rollers (see below) for walls and ceilings too.
- They come in a range of sizes from 12mm up to 100mm - the widest brush most amateur decorators can handle comfortably. Choose the width to suit the job you're tackling - 12mm for narrow window bars, 50mm for skirting boards and 100mm for a wall.
- First, dip the brush 1 to 2 inches into the paint. Then, gently tap the brush on the side of the can, first one side and then the other – this will leave you with a fully loaded brush. [PIC 1]
- Brush the paint onto the surface in a series of parallel overlapping strips. On wood, work along the grain. Then brush across the strips at right angles, and finish off with light strokes in the original direction. [PIC 2]
- At external corners, let the brush run off the edge of the surface. If you brush in the opposite direction, paint will collect on the edge and cause runs. At internal angles, brush the paint well into the angle first, then brush it out parallel with the corner.
- Hold small brushes by the ferrule for comfort and control. For larger brushes it's generally easier to grasp the handle.

Using a paint roller

- Choose a medium pile roller sleeve for smooth surfaces and a longer pile one for textured surfaces such as textured ceilings.
- Before use, rinse sleeve with water. Then spin to remove excess water.
- Fill the tray no more than 1/3 full. Load sleeve with paint, rolling slowly back and forth.
- Start at the top and work downward by rolling a large "W" in a space about 3 by 3 feet. Repeat working from the unpainted into the painted surface. [PIC 3]

TYPES OF PAINT

Traditionally, water-based 'emulsion' paints are used on walls and ceilings, and solvent-based paints for wood and metal but times have changed. The following should give you an idea of the many paint varieties available and their uses but please note, coverage is only a guide, in real life, it is dependent on how the paint is applied and the porosity of the surface. Always read the product instructions before use.

Water-based and Emulsion paint

If you plan to use emulsion paint, you have a few simple choices to make: the colour, finish, washability and ability to cover. Brilliant white and magnolia are the most common colours, but the Wickes range now offers a choice of over 100 emulsion colours. The most common finishes are matt and silk, as for quality, always use the best you can for the job you are undertaking. Emulsion paint is sold in 2.5 and 5-litre containers, with larger sizes available in selected colours, and typically covers about 12m² per litre. So a single coat on a wall 2.4m high and 6m long will need about 1.25 litres. You may want to use one of the following Wickes water-based paints instead of a standard emulsion:

Bathroom - a moisture resistant emulsion that provides a longer lasting finish in steamy rooms.
Durable Matt - fully scrubable, it's ideal for high traffic areas such as kitchens and hallways.

Trade Matt Paint for New Plaster - which as its name implies allows new plaster to continue to dry after it has been decorated.

High Performance Mould Protect Paint - for rooms where condensation and mould growth is a problem.

Smooth and Textured Ripple Paint - great for covering hairline cracks in interior walls and ceilings.

Smooth and Textured Masonry Paint - for external walls.

Acrylic Water Based Primer Undercoat - fast drying primer / undercoat suitable for interior and exterior use.

Quick Dry Satin - a durable, high quality, low odour satin sheen finish for wood and metal.

Quick Dry Gloss - a low odour, hard wearing high gloss finish for wood and metal.

Solvent-based paint

Choosing gloss or solvent paint is a little more complicated. Select your desired colour, then choose from either a gloss, satin or eggshell finish. Finally, you will need to consider the following selection factors:

The first is the consistency of the paint. Do you want traditional liquid gloss - the type preferred by the trade or non-drip gloss? The latter is easier to apply and goes on more thickly. Or are you looking for the convenience of a one-coat formulation?

The second is where it is to be used. For outdoors you really need paint specially formulated to extra durability, such as Wickes Exterior Gloss. Gloss paint is available in sizes ranging from 750ml to 5 litres. Coverage is typically about 14m² per litre for non-drip gloss, and up to 17m² per litre for liquid gloss. That's enough to paint both sides of four or five doors.

Speciality (specific use) paints

Emulsions and gloss paints will tackle most of your normal painting requirements but there are other jobs that need a specially formulated product. **For example**, the Wickes speciality paints range includes: Radiator Enamel Paint, High Performance Metal Paint, Matt Black Paint for Beams, Exterior Brick and Tile Paint, Concrete Floor Paint, Interior Floor Paint, Melamine and Tile Primer, Quick Drying MDF Primer, Heat Shield Spray Paint, Interior Satin Cover and All Purpose Spray Paint. *For our full range, see In-Store, or visit us online at: [wickes.co.uk](http://www.wickes.co.uk).*

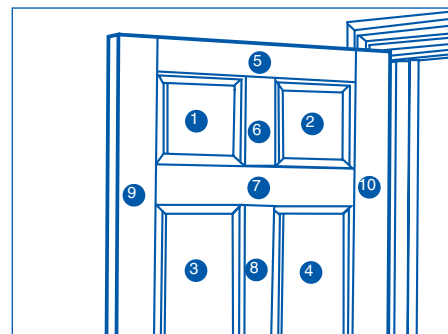
Primers and undercoats

If you're painting wood or metal, you need to use a primer and an undercoat to get top-quality performance. On softwood and man-made boards, use either **Wickes Wood Primer** or water-based acrylic - quick drying - if you're in a hurry. Treat knots with **Wickes Knotting Solution** first, and use **Aluminium Wood Primer** on resinous hardwoods. On metal, use **Wickes Red Oxide Metal Primer** on iron and steel, and **Wickes Quick Drying Metal Primer** on other metals. Then follow any primer (except Wickes Acrylic Based Primer Undercoat) with a white Undercoat, followed by a final topcoat of high or satin gloss. On dry, old or porous plaster, and cement, you can apply **Wickes Primer Seal** before emulsion paints. If the wall is stained, use **Wickes Interior Stain Cover** or **Stain Cover Spray**. Use **Interior Damp seal** on damp plaster, after rectifying the cause.

Painting sequences

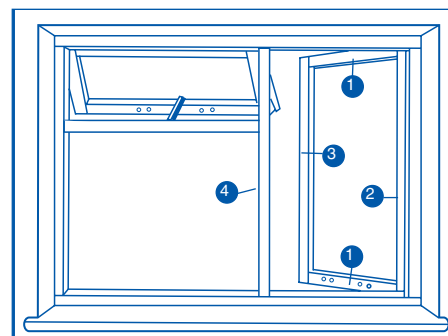
To get good results when you're painting, you need to work in a logical sequence. The aim is to be able to blend adjacent areas of paint together so you don't see a join when the paint dries - it's called 'keeping a wet edge' in the trade. So on a wall, for example, you start in one top corner - the right if you're right-handed, the left if you're left-handed. Tackle about a square metre at a time, then paint the next squares down the wall to skirting board level. Then move across the wall and start again at ceiling level. Treat a flush door in much the same way, but working with smaller squares.

For more intricate surfaces such as panelled doors and casement or sash windows, follow the numbered sequences shown in the illustrations.



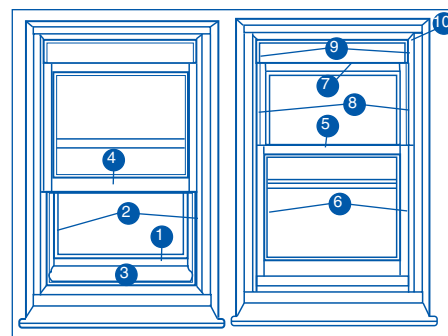
Painting panelled doors

Paint the panels first, then tackle the frame members working from the top down.



Painting casement windows

Paint the hinged casement first, then tackle the frame and sill. Repeat the sequence outdoors.



Painting sash windows

Open the sashes and paint all accessible surfaces. Then reverse the sashes to complete the job.

For more details about paint, painting, how to use and what to avoid, please refer to Good Idea Leaflet 120, which is available in store or at [wickes.co.uk](http://www.wickes.co.uk)

PROBLEM SOLVER

[P] The paint film is full of bits

[S] Dust the top of the tin before opening it. Strain the paint into a paint kettle before use. Dust and wash down surfaces before painting them. Work the bristles of a new brush to remove loose hairs.

[P] The previous colour is showing through the new paint.

[S] Apply an undercoat first to obliterate the old colour. Apply the new paint more evenly. Don't brush the new paint out too much.

[P] There are unsightly runs in the new paint film.

[S] Don't try to apply the paint so thickly. Take care not to leave excess paint on external angles. Don't apply too much paint over mouldings or other projections.

[P] The paint film has dried with a wrinkly look.

[S] Don't apply the paint so thickly. Avoid painting in hot sunny conditions.

[P] The new paint film has tiny craters in it.

[S] Avoid painting outdoors when rain is likely. Avoid painting in a damp or humid atmosphere. Avoid painting late in the day when dew may form.

[P] The paint film remains tacky beyond the normal drying time.

[S] Check that the surface is free of traces of grease or wax. Make sure there is adequate ventilation, especially in confined spaces. Check that the correct solvent was used to thin the paint.

Every care has been taken to ensure the accuracy of the information provided but product specifications and construction techniques can change and Wickes Building Supplies can accept no responsibility for such changes. The information should therefore be taken as general guidance only.

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